**Midds. ſſ.** *'Ad General' Seſſion' Pacis Domini Regis tent' pro Com'* Middleſexiæ, *apud* Hicks Hall *in* St. John-Street, *in Com' prædict' per adjorn' Die* Jovis *ſcilt' Sexto Die* Decembris, *Anno Regni Domini* GEORGII, *nunc Regis* Magnæ Britanniæ, *&c. Tertio; coram* Johanne Milner, *Armigero*; Henrico Fetherſton, *Baronetto*; Ricardo Gough, Jacobo Miſſen, *Militibus*; Martino Ryder, Joſepho Offley, Roberto Thornhill, Ricardo Woollaſton, Johanne Metcalfe, Johanne Fuller, Johanne Venner, Marmaduco Bealing, *Armigeris*; *& aliis ſociis ſuis Juſticiariis dicti Domini Regis ad Pacem in Com' prædict' conſervand' necnon ad diverſ' Felon' Tranſgr' & alia Maleſacta in eodem Com' perpetrat' audiend' & terminand' aſſign'*

WHEREAS ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace of this County have committed to His Majeſty's Goals of *Newgate*, *New-Priſon*, and the Houſe of Correction at *Clerkenwell*, in this County, ſeveral Perſons for great Offences by them done to His Majeſty, and ſeveral of His Subjects, which Offences have been fully prov'd before ſuch Juſtices to have been committed by ſuch Offenders: And ſome of the Juſtices of the Peace of this County, living at a great Diſtance from the Juſtices who committed them, have by falſe Suggeſtions, and Miſinformation been prevailed upon without the Knowledge or Privity of ſuch Juſtices of the Peace, and without ſending to know what Information had been given againſt ſuch Offenders, to take inſufficient Bail for, or Diſcharge and ſet at Liberty ſuch Offenders, whereby they have oftentimes evaded the Puniſhments which by Law ought to have been inflicted upon them, and ſuch Proceedings have occaſion'd great Reflections upon the Juſtices of the Peace of this County in general. AND WHEREAS alſo ſeveral of the Juſtices of the Peace of this County have been prevail'd upon to grant Licences to Perſons who live out of their Pariſhes and Diviſions to ſell Ale and Beer by retail, and for want of a due Knowledge and Character of ſuch Perſons, obtaining ſuch Licences, ſeveral Perſons diſaffected to His Majeſty's Perſon and Government, and of lewd and debauch'd Lives, who keep diſorderly Houſes, are ſo Licenſed in deceit of the Juſtices of Peace who granted ſuch Licences, and to the great Annoyance of the Neighbourhood where ſuch Licenſed Victuallers inhabit. AND WHEREAS ſeveral Informers do apply to ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace of this County, to convict Perſons who live remote and out of the Diviſions where ſuch Juſtices of the Peace do inhabit, for ſelling Drink on *Sundays*, or in ſhort or unſealed Meaſures, and the like Offences, againſt the Form of ſeveral Penal Laws and Statutes in ſuch Caſes made and provided, and for want of knowing the true Character and Credit of ſuch Informers, and the Perſons by them produced as Witneſſes to prove ſuch Offences,, ſeveral undue Convictions have been made, or at leaſt it is made very Difficult for the Juſtices of Peace to act with due Regard to the Publick, and the Perſons accuſed of ſuch Offences. FOR preventing and avoiding theſe, and the like Inconveniences for the future, It is thought fit and recommended by this COURT to the Juſtices of the Peace of this County, to Act in their ſeveral Diviſions according to the Rules and Directions following, *viz.*

THAT before they Bail or Diſcharge any Offender who is or ſhall be apprehended or committed to any Goal within this County, by any Warrant from any Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace inhabiting within the *Weekly Bills of Mortality* in this County, they do ſend to ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace who granted ſuch Warrant, or made ſuch Commitment, and receive from him or them an Account of the Offence and Charge againſt ſuch Offender, and this eſpecially in Caſes of Suſpicion of Felony, and in all Parochical Caſes, as Baſtardy, keeping of Diſorderly Houſes, Proſecutions againſt Pariſh Officers and the like.

THAT they do not grant Licences for ſelling of Ale, Beer, or other Liquors by Retail, to any Perſon living out of the Pariſh where the ſaid Juſtice of Peace dwells or is concern'd, unleſs in Caſes where no acting Juſtices of the Peace do dwell within the Pariſh; and in ſuch Caſes, That they be deſir'd to confine themſelves to their reſpective Diviſions: And that even in their own Pariſhes or Diviſions, they grant no Licence to any whoſe Licence has been taken away, or ſuppreſs'd, or refuſed to be renewed by other Juſtices of the Peace, without acquainting the Juſtices of the Peace who ſuppreſſed, or refuſed to renew the ſame.

THAT for avoiding Oppreſſion by Informers, and other great Inconveniencies in putting in Execution the Laws againſt ſuch Perſons who ſell Drink on *Sundays*, or in ſhort and unſealed Meaſures, or neglect to ſet up Lights, and in all other Offences of the like Nature, they do confine themſelves to the reſpective Pariſhes wherein they dwell; And if any come to inform againſt Perſons living in diſtant, or other Pariſhes, that they do firſt direct ſuch Informers to apply to ſome Juſtice of the Peace within the Pariſh where the Offender lives, and if no Juſtice of the Peace lives within that Pariſh, then to ſome Juſtice of the Peace within that Diviſion.

THAT for the more ſtrict Obſervance of the ſeveral ORDERS already made, or to be made by this COURT, for the better and more effectually obliging Conſtables, Headboroughs, and other Peace-Officers, to do their Duties, and to ſee that the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom, and the ORDERS of this COURT, be put in Execution, It is particularly Recommended to the Juſtices of the Peace to be watchful over the Officers of their Pariſhes, and in their Diviſions, and where they find any Neglect or Abuſe in them, to take ſome proper Care, that the Officers ſo offending may be puniſhed according to their Demerit.

THAT for preventing publick Clamour, and Law-Suits, occaſioned by Juſtices of the Peace who living at a Diſtance, ſhall or may be applied to in order to paſs the Accompts of Overſeers of the Poor of diſtant Pariſhes, to allow of Poors-Rates, or any other Parochial Rates, and to give Orders for Relief of the Poor, or the like, altho' ſeveral acting Juſtices of the Peace live in the ſaid Pariſhes, or in the Neighbourhood, The Juſtices of the Peace of this County are deſired to forbear acting in any of the aforeſaid, or like Caſes, in any Pariſh where there are Juſtices of the Peace inhabiting; or in caſe no acting Juſtice of the Peace inhabits in the ſaid Pariſh, to refer the Matters to the Juſtices of Peace of the Neighbouring Pariſhes.

THAT the better to prevent Papiſts, Nonjurors, and other Perſons Diſaffected to His Majeſty's Perſon and Government, from keeping Ale-houſes, or ſelling Beer, Ale, Brandy, or other Liquors by Retail, whereby they have an Opportunity to debauch the Minds, and alienate the Affections of many of His Majeſty's good Subjects, That the Juſtices of the Peace of this County, before they grant any Licence, be deſir'd to inquire into the Character of the Perſons applying for ſuch Licences, as alſo into the Characters of the Perſons who offer themſelves as Security, and that before any Licence be granted, that the Juſtices of the Peace do tender the Oaths of *Allegiance*, *Supremacy*, and *Abjuration*, as well to the Perſon to whom the Licence is Granted, as alſo to the Security: And that before the Licences already granted (which will be expir'd in a ſhort time) be renew'd; That the Juſtices of the Peace do take ſome Care that no Licence be granted or renew'd to any Perſon before he ſhall have taken the ſaid Oaths of *Allegiance*, *Supremacy* and *Abjuration*; and alſo that they do take Care, That every Perſon whoſe Licence ſhall be granted or renew'd, be bound, as well as his Sureties, in the Recognizance to be taken in Order to his Licence, and that the Sureties be Perſons of Subſtance ſufficient to anſwer the Sums they are bound in.

*Per Cur'*

Harcourt